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an assembly hall, are likewise on the second floor.

On the first floor are the business office, the meeting room for the local board of administration, a curator's room, and, covering the major part of the whole space, the exhibition collections. These exhibits are biological and oceanographic and are being developed with a two-fold end in view; one strictly scientific, the other educational. As taxonomic and distributional investigations are, and it is anticipated will continue to be, important parts of the institution's work, a carefully identified and well-arranged display of as much as possible of the fauna of the region is deemed an indispensable adjunct to the scientific work being prosecuted.

By opening the museum to the public and devoting some care and funds to making the exhibits intelligible, it is hoped visitors may learn about what is being done in the laboratories, at sea, and in the field. With the new building now in use, the original building is devoted exclusively to what it was designed for—research laboratories.

Besides the wharf and library-museum building there have been erected during the year an additional structure for the investigations on inheritance and environmental influence in mice; a small public aquarium; a "commons" with dining room capacity for about forty persons; and nine additional cottages for citizens of the "biological colony."

#### *BY-PRODUCTS OF THE FORESTS*

IN addition to the ordinary uses of wood with which we are familiar, we are dependent upon the forest for a variety of products whose appearance does not indicate their origin. According to a bulletin of the Forest Service, science is constantly learning of new constituents which enter into the make-up of wood and is finding new uses to which these constituents and those already known can be put. Powder for munitions or blasting, disinfectants for

protection against contagious diseases, and artificial silk for clothing are among the products obtained in whole or in part from wood.

Charcoal, as every one knows, is essential for the manufacture of black powder. All the acetone used as a solvent in making nitrocellulose powders is derived from acetic acid, a product of hard-wood distillation. Great Britain, it is said, is dependent upon the United States for acetone used in making cordite. Black walnut is a standard for gunstocks, and has been so much in demand for the past two years that our supply of this valuable wood has been considerably reduced and other woods, notably birch, are being substituted. From Europe comes the complaint that there is a shortage of willow for making wooden legs.

Pure wood alcohol is the only substance which can be converted commercially into formaldehyde, which is universally used for disinfection against such contagious diseases as smallpox, scarlet fever and tuberculosis. The experts at the Forest Products Laboratory have conducted extensive experiments on the production of grain or ethyl alcohol from wood and have been successful in experimental work in raising the yield and lowering the cost of production. If this process can be put on a commercial basis, the foresters say, it will result in putting the millions of tons of coniferous sawdust and other material which is now wasted every year to a profitable use.

By converting cellulose, one of the elements of wood, into a gelatinous material, known as viscose, a wide field is opened up for the utilization of wood waste, and a new line of products, varying all the way from sausage casings to tapestry, is added to the already lengthy list. Many of the so-called "silk" socks, neckties and fancy braids now on the market contain artificial silk made from wood.

About nine tenths of all the paper which we use is made from wood. Besides the detailed investigations of the



THE LATE KAKUZO OKAKURE, THE JAPANESE ART CURATOR, AND THE LATE HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY. This photograph, which has not hitherto been published, was taken at the time of the International Congress of Arts and Science for the organization of which Professor Münsterberg was largely responsible.

methods of making newsprint paper, and of the production of paper from woods hitherto unused for that purpose, which have been conducted, kraft paper, which compares favorably with the best on the market, has been produced experimentally at the Forest Products Laboratory from longleaf-pine mill-waste. This kraft paper is brown in color and is very much stronger than ordinary papers. It is used for a variety of purposes, and, cut into strips, is spun or twisted into thread which is then woven into onion and coffee bags, matting, suitcases and wall covering, similar to burlap, and furniture closely resembling that made from reeds, as well as other articles of common use.

Within the past year the Forest Products Laboratory has, by cooperating with manufacturers, succeeded in getting a dye made from mill-waste of osage orange put on the market as a substitute for fustic, which we import from Jamaica and Tehuantepec.

These are only a few examples of the various lines of work carried on at the Forest Products Laboratory. Other activities, ranging all the way from the study of decay in wood to that of the resistance of wood to fire, are in progress, and new discoveries are constantly being made. Incidentally, the Forest Products Laboratory, at Madison, Wis., was the first of its kind in the world and is probably still the best equipped. With the possible exception of Germany, no other country has done as much as the United States systematically to investigate the possibilities of its forest resources.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE regret to record the death of Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, professor emeritus of anthropology in the Univer-

sity of Oxford; J. B. A. Chauveau, member of the section of agriculture of the Paris Academy of Sciences and of Dr. E. Gaupp, professor of anatomy in the University of Breslau.

Dr. Julius Stieglitz, professor of chemistry in the University of Chicago, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Stieglitz has also been elected president of the Society of Sigma Xi. The gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded to Mr. W. S. Adams, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, for his investigations in stellar spectroscopy.

The Elisha Kent Kane medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia has been conferred on Dr. William Curtis Farabee for his explorations in the Amazon Valley. The alumni of Columbia University have given a dinner in recognition of the university's contributions to science and engineering. The guest of honor was Professor M. I. Pupin, who completes his twenty-fifth year of service to the university.

At the annual meeting of the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the University of Minnesota, was elected president of the foundation to succeed Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who was appointed chairman of the board of trustees. Messrs. Charles E. Hughes, Julius Rosenwald, of Chicago, and Dr. Wallace Buttrick, chairman of the General Education Board, were also elected trustees, and Mr. Edwin Rogers Embree, assistant secretary of Yale University, was elected secretary to succeed Mr. Jerome D. Greene. Dr. Marion L. Burton, president of Smith College, has been elected president of the University of Minnesota to succeed Dr. Vincent.